

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 251543Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6124

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: "DAY OF STRUGGLE"

REF: ROME'S 9932

1. THE "DAY OF STRUGGLE," PROCLAIMED BY THE FDEREATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) FOR JULY 24, PASSED WITHOUT UNTOWARD EVENT. WORK STOPPAGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY VAIRIED GREATLY IN LENGTH, AND IN THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE WORKERS RESPONDED. SOME PLANTS EXPERIENCED ONLY BRIEF STOPPAGES OF PERHAPS AN HOUR FOR PLANT ASSEMBLIES ADDRESSED BY UNION OFFICIALS.

2. THE 24-HOUR STIKE IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE "DAY OF STRUGGLE", RESULTED IN WALKOUTS APPROACHING 100 PERCENT SIMILARLY, URBAN TRANSPORT TENDED TO BE IDLE FOR THE PRE-SCRIBED PERIOD, E.G., THREE HOURS IN ROME. AIR TRAVEL WAS INTERRUPTED, OR AT LEAST DELAYED, BECAUSE OF THE FOUR-HOUR WALKOUT OF SOME, THOUGH NOT ALL, GROUND PERSONNEL. IN MANUFACTURING, THE

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PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION IN THE STRIKE TENDED TO BE LESS

THAN 50 PERCENT.

3. MAJOR UNION FIGURES ADDRESSED LABOR RALLIES IN THE LARGER CITIES THOUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THUS, CGIL CHIEF LAMA, SPEAKING IN NAPLES, REITERATED A FAVORITE THEME -- THE NEED TO CHANGE THE NATION'S SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I.E., THE NEED TO SHIFT GRADUALLY INTO INCREASED PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION. CISL CHIEF STORTI, ADDRESSING A CROWD IN ROME, SPOKE OF POSSIBLE STRONGER UNION ACTIONS IN SEPTEMBER IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT FORTHCOMING ON THE AMELIORATIONS TO THE AUSTERITY MEASURES WHICH THE CCU IS DEMANDING.

4. THE UNIONS HAVE BEGUN THEIR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES AND PARLIAMENTARY GOUPS, PRESSING UPON THEM THE CHANGES WHICH LABOR WANTS TO ACHIEVE IN THE AUSTERITY MEASURES NOW BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

5. COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, THE UNIONS HAVE EXHAUSTED THE MASURES THEY PRE PREPARED TO TAKE IN RACTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. IF, AS EXPECTED, THE GOVERNMENT AGREES TO CERTAIN CHANGES, THER OUGHT TO BE A MONTH OF RESPITE UNTIL SEPTEMBER WHICH PROMISES TO BE ONE OF THE HOTTEST MONTHS OF THE YEAR FOR BOTH LABOR AND GOVERNMENT. VOLPE

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